

SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 497

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SUBJECT PCCh Study of Failure of October 1951
Steel StrikePLACE
ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

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NO. OF ENCLS.
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. Leaders of the Communist Party of Chile (PCCh) consider that the short-lived October 1951 Huachipato steel workers' strike exemplifies poor organization and they feel that it should be studied carefully by the Party so that any future repetition may be avoided. The strike was organized by the electricians' union at Huachipato, which was described by the PCCh as being made up of militant Communists formerly of the copper and nitrate fields and which was reported previously to be dominantly Communist.
2. Party leaders attribute the failure of the strike principally to the uncoordinated way in which the electricians initiated the movement. The Communist leaders have noted that the electricians made claims for benefits pertaining only to themselves, so that the rest of the workers were obliged also to present their own individual claims. Because of this, no effective joint action was possible. The PCCh study of the strike also criticized the role of the Party in the strike, pointing out that in spite of the obvious failure of the strike, the Communists might well have capitalized on the failure. They could have pointed to the fact that only two Communists were members of the directorate of the electrical workers' union, and should have convinced the workers that, had there been more Communists in the directorate, the strike would have been more efficiently and successfully organized.

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